



**MEDIA RELEASE
STATE OF EMERGENCY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 16, 2021

Smiths Falls responds to provincial order, closes municipal services and locations

Smiths Falls – In response to the most recent enhanced restrictions announced by the province of Ontario, the Town of Smiths Falls is making changes to municipal services.

The province of Ontario has announced the extension of the declaration of emergency and the current Stay-at-Home order for an additional two weeks to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Current restrictions require all Ontarians to remain at home except for necessary reasons, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. All outdoor gatherings are restricted to members of the same household.

In accordance with the new restrictions, and effective April 17, the Town of Smiths Falls is announcing the closure of all outdoor recreation equipment, including playgrounds and sports fields, until further notice. Walking, jogging or biking along pathways, trails and sidewalks is permitted, however residents must respect physical/social distancing by maintaining a two-metre distance from those outside their own household.

All shared and public outdoor amenities, including slides, play structures, outdoor exercise equipment, the off-leash dog park, skateboard park, Senators/Gerry Lowe rink, bocce ball courts, beaches and tennis/pickleball courts will remain closed until further notice. The Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre (including the walking concourse) and the youth arena will remain closed.

The Smiths Falls Public Library will remain closed for in-person visits and will continue to offer curbside pick-up only. Materials can be requested from the Smiths Falls Public Library through the online catalogue at smithsfalls.insigniaills.com/Library/Home, by email at smithsfallslibrary@vianet.ca, or by telephone at 613-283-2911. The book drop-off at the Elmsley St. entrance will remain open.

The Smiths Falls' Municipal Complex (Town Hall) will remain closed. Utility payments can be made online or through the black mailbox located at the front of the Town Hall. Garbage tags may be purchased at Andress' Your Independent Grocer. For information about municipal services, please call 613-283-4124.

Town of Smiths Falls' staff and Council members will remain available and can be reached by email or telephone. A staff directory and contact information can be found on the Town of Smiths Falls' website at smithsfalls.ca/get-in-touch.

For additional information about COVID-19 please contact the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit their website at healthunit.org/coronavirus.

Enforcement of Restrictions

To increase public compliance with the Stay-at-Home order and stop the spread of COVID-19, amendments to an emergency order (O.Reg 8/21 Enforcement of COVID-19 Measures) have been made that will provide police officers and other provincial offences officers enhanced authority to support the enforcement of Ontario's Stay-at-Home order.

Effective April 17, police officers in Ontario have the authority to stop both pedestrians or vehicles to ensure compliance. Officers have the authority to request people to provide their name, date of birth, home address and the reason they are out. Police are urging that people comply with the orders for public safety and to reduce the spread of Covid.

All residents are requested to follow all current and new restrictions as implemented by the province of Ontario.

For further information about the province of Ontario's COVID 19 Stay at Home Order and additional enhancements, please visit: news.ontario.ca/en/release/61192/ontario-strengthens-enforcement-of-stay-at-home-order.

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